

FO Geoffrey Robert Palmer 415820 RAAF

Geoffrey was born on 23 July 1922 in Darlington, Western Australia, the son of Cecil George Palmer and Valentine Grant Palmer nee Carter.

Educated at Perth Modern School, Western Australia, Geoffrey was employed as a bank clerk by the Commonwealth Bank when, in July 1941, he applied for aircrew service in the RAAF.

Called up in February 1942, Geoffrey commenced pilot training in Australia; however, when his training was terminated in August 1942 he re-mustered as Observer. In February 1943 Geoffrey was awarded his Navigator badge, granted a commission and was sent to Canada to complete advanced training.

Following training at 1 OTU RCAF Station Bagotville, Quebec and No. 1 GRS RCAF Summerside, Prince Edward Island, in October 1943 Geoffrey embarked for the UK and in December was posted to 224 Sqn at RAF St Eval, Cornwall.

In August 1944, Geoffrey was sent to 111 (Coastal) OTU, Windsor Field, Nassau, Bahamas for conversion to the Consolidated B-24 Liberator, and on return was posted to 223 Sqn when it reformed at RAF Oulton, Norfolk.

On 14/15 January 1945 ten 223 Sqn Liberators were tasked with "Jostle" and "Window" sorties. Geoffrey's crew was tasked with a "Jostle" op (airborne radio jamming), in support of a Bomber Command force of 151 aircraft flying an op to attack the marshalling yards at Grevenbroich, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

At 16:06 on 14 January Geoffrey, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed RAF Oulton in Liberator IV TT336 (6G-R).

At 20:09 Geoffrey's aircraft was intercepted by Hptm Gerhard Raht of Stab I./NJG2 flying a Ju-88 from Twente Airfield. The aircraft broke up mid air and crashed at Genelaar, Meerhout, twelve miles south of Antwerp, killing nine of the eleven-man crew. The Pilot and the left Waist Gunner survived. Geoffrey initially survived the crash but was declared dead on arrival at 9 British General Hospital.

Also killed: F/L George Trail (AG); FO Frank Arthur Mason (AG); WO John George Galley DFM (WOp/AG); WO Robert Edward Ralph (WOp/AG); FS Donald Kenneth Clark RCAF (WOp/AG); FS William Alexander Gray RCAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Arthur Leslie Evens RCAF (Pilot); Sgt Robert Hartop (FE)

Geoffrey is buried in Leopoldsburg War Cemetery, Limburg, Belgium

Geoffrey is commemorated on Wall Panel 222

Photo Source: findagrave

